What is claimed is:

1.   An insertion unit for an endoscope, comprising:

a flexible tube having an inner diameter D_1 and an inner cross-sectional area S; and

a plurality of components inserted and arranged in said flexible tube, said components including an optical fiber bundle,

wherein, said inner diameter D_1 is not less than 6.5 mm and said inner cross-sectional area S satisfies a condition:

$$0.5 \leq \Sigma s/S \leq 0.6$$

where Σs represents a sum of cross-sectional areas of said components arranged in said flexible tube.

2.   The insertion unit according to claim 1, wherein said inner diameter D_1 is the inner diameter at the narrowest portion of said flexible tube.

3.   The insertion unit according to claim 1, comprising a bendable member connected to said flexible tube, said bendable member being bent with said plurality of components inserted therein, said inner diameter D_1 being the inner diameter in the vicinity of where said bendable member is connected to said flexible tube.

22

4.   An insertion unit of an endoscope, comprising:

a flexible tube having an inner diameter D_1 and an

inner cross-sectional area S; and

a plurality of components inserted and arranged in

said flexible tube, said components including an optical

fiber bundle,

wherein, said inner diameter D_1 is less than 6.5 mm

and said inner cross-sectional area S satisfies a following

condition:

$0.5 \leq \Sigma s/S \leq 0.65$,

where Σs represents a sum of cross-sectional areas of

said components arranged in said flexible tube.

5.   The insertion unit according to claim 4, wherein said

inner diameter D_1 is the inner diameter at the narrowest

portion of said flexible tube.

6.   The insertion unit according to claim 5, comprising a

bendable member connected to a distal end of said flexible

tube, said bendable member being bent with said plurality

of components inserted therein, said inner diameter D_1

being the inner diameter in the vicinity of a position

where said bendable member is connected to said flexible

tube.